



My Water Quality Internet Portal

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Monitoring Council Delivers First My Water Quality Internet Portal



IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?

This is the first of several water quality themes addressed by a new set of internet portals being developed under the oversight of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. The new portal brings water quality information together in a single location and in an easy to understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water quality professionals. View the new portal at www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/. Included are interactive maps and monitoring data that focus on swimming safety questions from a variety of perspectives.

Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006) mandated that water quality monitoring, and assessment activities be coordinated among organizations inside and outside California government, and that this information be

made available to decision makers and the public via the internet. In November 2007, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding that established the Monitoring Council. Last December, the Monitoring Council sent its initial recommendations to the agency Secretaries for coordinating water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts throughout the State. The new My Water Quality portal represents the initial implementation of the Monitoring Council's vision, as outlined in those recommendations.

In conjunction with expert stakeholder work groups, the Monitoring Council is bringing together water quality information from a wide variety of organizations with special expertise in swimming safety, coordinated through the Beach Water Quality Workgroup (Southern California) and the Central/Northern California Ocean and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Group. Local, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations have all pitched in to answer your water quality questions.



Is It Safe to Swim In Our Waters?

Show County Info:

Monterey County

- [beach closure information](#)
- [bacterial impairment listings](#)
- [bacterial sampling data](#)
- [beach improvement projects](#)

Beach water quality monitoring and strong pollution prevention measures are critical for protecting beach goers from waterborne diseases. Monitoring is performed by county health agencies, publicly owned sewage treatment plants, other dischargers, environmental groups and numerous citizen-monitoring groups.

View Monitoring and Assessment Information

- Click on a county or;
- Select from the Show County Info menu.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- Can I swim at my beach, lake, or stream?
- How clean was my beach, lake, or stream during the past week or month?
- What are the long-term trends at my beach, lake, or stream?
- Which beaches, lakes, and streams are currently closed by county health agencies?
- Which beaches, lakes, and streams are listed by the State as impaired?
- Are the problems getting better?

Within the next few months, additional My Water Quality internet portals will be released to address the following water quality questions:

- Is It Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish from Our Waters?
(initial focus: sport fish)
- Are Our Aquatic Ecosystems Healthy?
(initial focus: wetlands)

- Is Our Water Safe to Drink?
(initial focus: groundwater)

More information about SB1070, the Monitoring Council, and the expert stakeholder work groups is on the web at www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/.

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My Water Quality - hosted by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) |

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Welcome to My Water Quality

This web portal, supported by a wide variety of public and private organizations, presents California water quality monitoring data and assessment information from a variety of perspectives that may be viewed across space and time.

IS OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies. [More >>](#)

IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?

Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease. [More >>](#)

IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH FROM OUR WATERS?

Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers. [More>>](#)

ARE OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live. [More>>](#)

WHAT STRESSORS AND PROCESSES AFFECT OUR WATER QUALITY?

Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. [More>>](#)

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